

### ***Business Area #7: Harvard Square***

**Boundaries:** bordered by Prescott Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Putnam Avenue, Flag Street, the Charles River, Ash Street, Mason Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: establishments and business offices on Massachusetts Avenue between 1050 and 1540, Mt. Auburn Street between 1 and 168, and the numerous restaurants, shops, and offices on Holyoke, Dunster, and Winthrop Streets, as well as, the Charles Square and University Place complexes.



*Harvard Square*

The professional pickpocket remains a major concern in Harvard Square. The total of 147 reported **larceny from the person** in the Square in 2002 represents an 18% increase from 2001 and the highest figure for this crime type for Business District # 7 in six years. Pickpockets use public transportation and historically Harvard Square has been their favorite stop. The dippers favorite target is someone who is preoccupied. The mark is the person browsing in a bookstore, the geek surfing on his laptop in the java shop, and the tourist gawking at the kids in the Pit. The rate of larceny from the person slowed down over the final six months of the year. Over the first two quarters there were 89 incidents reported, from July till the end of the year, only 58 thefts were recorded. This decrease can be attributed to the arrest of a pair of professional thieves from Boston who were targeting restaurant and bar clientele on weekend nights.? There were four additional **commercial robberies** committed in Harvard Square over the final two quarters of 2002. Three of the robberies went down in the last two weeks of July. On a Thursday night in late July, a man who implied to the clerk he had a gun robbed a clothing store. Ten days later a suspect who feigned applying for employment victimized a restaurant on Dunster Street. Three days passed before a suspect robbed a pizza parlor at closing with a gun on the last day of the month. The two commercial robberies in the first two quarters involved a heist at knife point of a restaurant cashier and a note-passer at a Mass Ave bank in March.? **Commercial breaks** increased by 18 incidents in Harvard Square in 2002 and recorded the highest total for this crime in six years. Analysis of the breaks over the first six months of 2002 indicated sporadic weekend night incidents on the periphery of the square that were amateurish in nature and basically acts of vandalism. The only commercial break pattern identified over the final six months of 2002 were a series of breaks into restaurants on Bow, Mt Auburn, Brattle and JFK Streets in August. Cash receipts from registers and safes were targeted.?

CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Larceny from Building	74	77	73	68	68
Larceny from Person	124	124	137	124	147
Commercial Burglary	25	19	10	10	28
Commercial Robbery	5	2	2	6	6
Shoplifting	100	86	81	97	79
Fraud/Flim	34	49	40	33	69

Flam/Counterfeiting					
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